

FOR INFORMATION  
DA-2008-52  
August 20, 2008

SUBJECT: *Sirex noctilio* Fabricius (Sirex woodwasp) in Huron County and St. Clair County,  
Michigan

TO: STATE AND TERRITORY AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY OFFICIALS

On July 31, 2008, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) confirmed the detection of *Sirex noctilio* in Lakeport State Park, located in Lexington, St. Clair County, Michigan. Later on August 15, 2008, a woodwasp specimen that was collected in White Rock Cemetery, White Rock, Huron County, was confirmed as *S. noctilio*. In each case, a single female specimen was collected from a Lindgren trap baited with the standard 70:30 mixture of alpha and beta pinene lure.

The Sirex survey area in Michigan is part of a multistate, multiagency detection and delimiting survey that is ongoing in high-risk areas throughout the United States. To date, cooperative State and Federal survey efforts have confirmed the presence of *S. noctilio* in 4 Michigan counties (including Huron and St. Clair), 29 New York counties, 6 Pennsylvania Counties, and 1 Vermont County. *Sirex noctilio* is also known to be present in Ontario Province, Canada.

*Sirex noctilio* is an exotic species of wood-boring wasp capable of causing significant mortality in healthy species of pine trees. Management programs that integrate quarantine, biological, and cultural control techniques have been developed by other countries to mitigate the impact of this forest pest. PPQ's Center for Plant Health, Science, and Technology (CPHST) is presently assessing the feasibility of implementing a biological control program for *S. noctilio* in the United States. Promising results were obtained by CPHST during 2007 pilot studies of a parasitic nematode, *Beddingia siricidicola*. Required environmental documentation is being completed and permit applications have been submitted for the fall field trials with *B. siricidicola*. The proposed U.S. phytosanitary actions that will prohibit the movement of pine commodities from infested and exposed areas are currently in departmental review.

For more information about *Sirex noctilio*, please contact Lynn Evans-Goldner, PPQ's *Sirex noctilio* National Program Coordinator at Area Code (301) 734-7228.

/s/ Paul R. Eggert /for

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